

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES  
May 26, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Jose Martinez, Chairman at 1:35 pm. Introductions were done. Agenda and the minutes for April 2010 were accepted.

**Attendance:** R. Fulton, J. Granda, D. Valkema, J. Martinez, J. Miller, M. Schmidt, P. Edwards, J. David, S. Hix, and A. Rigerman.

**Discussion:** There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting so Mr. Rigerman was allowed to speak about some of his activities outside of CODI. He said that he had gotten the Costco in his area to change their accessible parking. He also said that he would be going to the U.S. Attorney's office in regard to the City of Miami's lack of physical access. Ms. Hyams, the Board liaison spoke about the need for proper meeting decorum. She said that she would give two warnings and after that she would remove the person from the meeting. She indicated that she had gotten several calls from CODI members about the lack of decorum at the April CODI meeting. Mr. Martinez, Chairman, read a statement from Shanika Graves, Miami-Dade Assistant County Attorney, concerning proper etiquette at meetings. Mr. Martinez also asked for people to go through the chair when they wanted to ask a question. Mr. Dubin was connected by phone to the meeting. He said that the line had a buzz and Ms. Hyams requested that an ADA staff member try to contact the ETSD staff who set up the connection. She then tried calling back but the call went into phone mail. She then tried to call again and finally did get Mr. Dubin on the line. After he said he was having trouble hearing and that there was considerable noise on the line, Ms. Hyams requested someone use a cell phone to connect with Mr. Dubin. Mr. David used his cell phone to call Mr. Dubin.

**Access Committee:** Mr. Miller gave his report. He went over the recommendations that his committee had developed. The recommendations touched on legislative fixes as well as programmatic recommendations. Enforcement was a strong theme as well as education. Committee recommendations included: a statewide mandatory minimum fine of \$250 escalating through \$750 with accompanying license suspensions, traffic school, and public service; centralized registration and authorization structure via web based database and DHSMV; restriction of disability certification authorization to Medical and Osteopathic Physicians; periodic recertification for all placard holders in conjunction with driver's license or state ID renewal; placard holder photo on placards; well trained and supported volunteer parking enforcement patrols; reevaluation of the fine income allocation to better achieve enforcement and public/agency education.

Mr. Edwards made a comment about the committee recommendation that the removal of placards, which currently display the wording "IMPORTANT: REMOVE BEFORE DRIVING VEHICLE", be required before driving to not obstruct drivers vision. He noted that some people might have disabilities that make it hard or impossible to remove the placards. Mr. Miller suggested that providing in the ordinance an alternative means of displaying the placard in such cases might address that concern. Mr. Edwards acknowledged that possibility.

**Old Business:** Ilene Hyams read the first motion made and approved last month. This involved writing a letter to the Director of Transit, Mr. Kapoor. Ms. Hyams read the letter she had written and asked for CODI's approval. **Motion was made by Ms. Hix and seconded by Ms. Schmidt to accept the letter as read. Motion passed unanimously**

Ms. Valkema read the second motion that was approved at last month's meeting. This motion referred to information about the secret shopper program. She said that Mr. Kapoor is unable to come to the meeting, he has sent his ADA Coordinator, Maude Gonzales who is directly involved in the fixed route secret shopper program. She went on to say the secret shopper program is in response to a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) assessment of Metro-bus compliance with the Bus Stop Announcements and Route Identification Efforts conducted in July 1998. Because of that assessment, MDT is required to conduct quarterly assessments of the Bus Stop Announcements until FTA releases MDT of this requirement. MDT is required to achieve 100% compliance with this provision.

The EPP-RFP 669, Transit Operator Performance Monitoring Services, costs to the County \$11,640.00 per quarterly monitoring service. She said if CODI wants to offer any suggestions of other type of system

testing either for para-transit or fixed route they certainly can. We have a transportation committee so if anyone is interested please email Ilene or call her with suggestion and we can have a committee meeting and then come to CODI with suggestion.

Ms. Hyams addressed the third motion that was made at the April 2010 CODI meeting. She went over the Administrative Order 8-3: Special Event Permits in Park and recreation Department Facilities. She also said that there were no ADA lawsuits or lawsuits for lack of access for special events in the past three years. She indicated that she will be given the transition plan for the Parks, and if anyone is interested in seeing it they can come to her office. The transition plan is too big a document to email. Ms. Valkema, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Miller asked for electronic copies of the AO 8-3 and the affidavit. A member of the audience suggested that the Special Events Coordinator should be there during the whole event. The Access Committee will consider this issue.

**New Business:** There was discussion as to why there was a person who was allowed to call into the meeting. Quite a few CODI members made some points about allowing people to call into the meeting and finally, Mr. Miller suggested that it be brought up at the Access meeting. Mr. Edwards suggested that until it was decided, Mr. Dubin should be thanked and then disconnected. Mr. David disconnected the call.

Ms. Kathleen Gonot was introduced. Her company has the contract to do the secrete shopper program for Miami-Dade Transit. She explained the contract and then asked for people who might be interested in working on the contract as independent contractors. Several questions were asked. The work could involve week days, weekend, days and evenings. The pay is \$15.00 an hour. There is a 1099 generated if a person earns over \$600 a year.

Mr. Barbeau from the University of South Florida presented new software that Miami-Dade Transit will be evaluating. It is software that runs on a cell phone which will help a person with a disability to use the fixed route with more confidence. It will notify a person when they should pull the cord and get off a bus. It can either talk to you or vibrate. The test period will last until July. Miami -Dade County is one of three sites testing this software. Mr. Granda mentioned that at OEM he met two Fire Fighters from out of the area who have developed software to notify a deaf driver or pedestrian that an emergency vehicle is approaching. He will give this contact to Mr. Barbeau.

Mr. Maurice Ferre was introduced but because he is running for office and because there were none of his opponents present, he was unable to speak about his platform concerning people with disabilities. Ms. Hyams introduced Shanika Gravis, from the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office to explain to CODI why Mr. Ferre could not speak unless he was speaking as a member from the audience about a CODI issue that was being discussed. Mr. Martinez said that he was embarrassed at what happened. Ms. Hyams agreed and said she was especially embarrassed since she was the one that had to tell him. Ms. Hyams reminded CODI that one of the functions of her Office is to support and help guide CODI. This incident would not have happened if Mr. Ferre was not invited by Mr. Martinez without her knowledge. If CODI did want to have a political forum, they could but it would have to be advertised as such and all appropriate candidates had to be invited and participate.

There was a discussion about the CODI committees. As of now there are three active committees: Transportation, Denise Valkema Chair- Access, John Miller Chair and Housing, Ronald Fulton Chair. Mr. Edwards volunteered to head up the Employment committee.

The Miami-Dade Elections department was brought up due to Mr. Dubin's email of the subject. It was decided that issue would go to the Access committee. Ms. Heidi Johnson-Wright mentioned that her office, GSA, and Elections were working together on barrier removal projects. She reported that six more projects had just been funded and she would be happy to share the information with CODI.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00.